



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN DEFENDS ISRAELI RAID, CALLS FOR DELIVERY OF PLANES

In a letter to President Ronald Reagan, Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) joined with other key congressmen of both parties, in asking that F-16 jets be delivered to Israel as scheduled. The deliveries were suspended by Reagan in reaction to Israel's bombing of the nuclear reactor in Baghdad.

Waxman and his colleagues described the Israeli raid as "motivated by a genuine and realistic fear of nuclear attack by Iraq. The letter further states "certainly we could not have expected Israel to sit idly by while Iraq developed a nuclear bomb capability."

In commenting on the letter Congressman Waxman said,

"The key question was not when Iraq would have a completed atom bomb, but, rather, when the French would deliver the enriched uranium needed for building the bomb. Once the uranium had been delivered, the reactor facility could not be destroyed without endangering the enormous population of Baghdad -- a mere 12 miles from the reactor site."

Waxman expressed the belief that "privately the American government and all the governments in the Arab world are grateful that the Israelis have, at least for now, eliminated Iraq as a nuclear power."

The Congressman concluded,

"In my mind, there is absolutely no question that the Israelis acted in their own self defense. They used American-supplied planes and arms not for purposes of conquest but solely to protect their own population from an atomic holocaust. The Israelis violated neither the spirit nor the letter of the 1952 Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement."

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